

Washington, DC – Today Congressman Earl Blumenauer (D-Ore) voted in favor of a motion to concur with the Senate amendments to H.R. 6, the Energy Independence and Security Act. The Senate passed the bill on December 13 by a vote of 86 to 8. Today's House passage sends the bill to the President, who is expected to sign it into law. Congressman Blumenauer issued the following statement:

"This bill is an historic achievement for Congress – a departure from the energy policy of the past, in which we tried to dig and drill our way to energy independence. For the first time, the primary focus of our energy policy is conservation, and the conservation measures in this bill will reduce U.S. oil consumption by more than 4 billion dollars a day – more than twice our daily imports from the Persian Gulf. In addition to increasing the efficiency of our cars, which we haven't done for 32 years, this bill will increase the energy efficiency of light bulbs, appliances, buildings, and government agencies.

"That said, I am very disappointed that this is not the comprehensive energy bill that I had hoped we would send to the President. It does not include a renewable electricity standard to require utilities to generate some of their electricity from wind, solar, and other renewable resources. This means that the federal government will continue to fall behind and watch states take the lead on energy issues.

"Also, it does not contain tax provisions that would shift government support from the traditional oil and gas industry – which do not need government assistance to turn a profit – to the budding renewable industry, which still needs tax credits. I'm nervous about the signals we are sending to investors, who need a long term extension of the production and investment tax credits to create market certainty. I hope that the House will revisit these credits immediately in the New Year."

The Energy Independence and Security Act will do the following:

- Strengthen national security, by lessening our dependence on foreign oil
- Reduce global warming
- Lower energy costs for consumers
- Create hundreds of thousands of new jobs and strengthens our economy

Strengthens National Security

Ø Increases vehicle fuel efficiency standard to 35 miles per gallon in 2020—the first congressional increase in 32 years.

Ø Slashes U.S. oil consumption by more than 4 million barrels per day by 2030—more than twice our daily imports from the Persian Gulf.

Reduces Global Warming

Ø Cuts greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 by up to 24 percent of what the U.S. needs to help save the planet.

Ø Increased vehicle fuel efficiency has the equivalent effect of taking 28 million vehicles off the road in 2020.

Ø Increases the efficiency of buildings, homes, appliances, and lighting, reducing emissions 75 percent as much as increasing vehicle efficiency.

Ø Makes an historic commitment to American homegrown renewable energy that reduces greenhouse gas emissions.

Lowers Energy Costs for American families

Ø Increased vehicle fuel efficiency will save American families \$700 to \$1,000 a year at the pump.

Ø New fuel efficiency standards will produce \$22 billion in net annual savings for consumers in 2020.

Ø Building, appliance, and lighting efficiency will save consumers \$400 billion through 2030.

Creates Jobs

Ø Job training will prepare workers for 3 million new 'green' jobs over 10 years

Ø Small businesses will be renewable energy leaders.

The Energy Independence and Security Act has won extensive bipartisan support from a broad coalition of state and local elected officials, environmental, labor, faith and business communities.

